

NOVA DEBATE

Home of the Titan Invitational



JUDGE'S HANDBOOK

Judging Reference Sheet

<p><u>Extemporaneous Speaking</u></p> <p>Students are given 30 minutes to prepare a speech on a given topic. The speech is impromptu but very structured.</p> <p><u>Regulations:</u> Time violations cannot place first. Those using notes must rank last in the round. Time: up to 7 minutes (only valid if timed.)</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Factually accurate Focused on the topic Point of view is supported. Research is referenced. Answers the question effectively.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Eye Contact Volume Speaking Rate Confidence</p>	<p><u>Original Oratory</u></p> <p>Students have a memorized speech that is approximately 10 minutes in length on any selected topic.</p> <p><u>Regulations:</u> Time violations cannot place first.</p> <p>Notes/printed speeches cannot be used.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Causes Effects Solutions Credible research incorporated.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Eye Contact Volume Speaking Rate Confidence</p>	<p><u>Interp (Dramatic, Humorous, Oral interpretation)</u></p> <p>Students have a memorized piece that has been interpreted from a published text.</p> <p><u>Regulations:</u> Time violations cannot place first.</p> <p>Only OI can use a binder. Students in OI cannot move around. (This does not apply for HI and DI.)</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Exposition Rising Action Climax Falling Action Resolution</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Eye Contact Volume Speaking Rate Confidence</p>	<p><u>Congressional Debate</u></p> <p>Approximately 10-25 Students are in a Congress Session.</p> <p><u>Regulations:</u> Students will elect a Presiding Officer to keep recency and time speeches.</p> <p>Speeches need to be between 2:50- 3:00 minutes.</p> <p>The Senators write speeches on specific bills/legislation prior to the tournament.</p> <p><u>Content:</u> Argument structure: Claim-point/purpose; data- factual evidence; warrant- logical explanation; impact- link to the "bigger picture" why it matters.</p> <p><u>Delivery:</u> Eye Contact Volume Speaking Rate Confidence</p>	<p><u>Public Forum</u></p> <p>Students are in teams of two. They prepare for both the affirmative and negative side of the topic.</p> <p><u>Regulations:</u> Students will have times for each part of the approx. 45 minute round.</p> <p>See times on back.</p> <p>Students may not face each other during cross examination. They face the judge.</p> <p>Students may not face each other during cross examination. They face the judge.</p> <p>Judge must keep time as well.</p> <p>Students will debate the topic with prepared cases that are based on moral values and ethics more so than on fact and evidence.</p> <p>Students speak at a fast pace.</p>	<p><u>Lincoln Douglas</u></p> <p>Students debate one on one. They prepare for both the affirmative and negative side of the topic.</p> <p><u>Regulations:</u> Students will have times for each part of the approximately 45 minute round.</p> <p>See times on back.</p> <p>Students may not face each other during cross examination. They face the judge.</p> <p>Judge must keep time as well.</p> <p>Students will debate the topic with prepared cases that are based on moral values and ethics more so than on fact and evidence.</p> <p>Students speak at a fast pace.</p>
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** NSDA Rules are followed at all tournaments with the exception of CFL tournaments **

** Students are not allowed to utilize the internet DURING a round of any event. Extemp is permitted 30 minutes of preparation time prior to their speaking time.**

Public Forum Speech Times:

- Speaker 1 (Team A, 1st speaker).....4 min.
 - Speaker 2 (Team B, 1st speaker).....4 min.
 - Crossfire** (between speakers 1 & 2).....3 min.
 - Speaker 3 (Team A, 2nd speaker)4 min.
 - Speaker 4 (Team B, 2nd speaker).....4 min.
 - Crossfire** (between speakers 3 & 4).....3 min.
 - Speaker 1 Summary2 min.
 - Speaker 2 Summary2 min.
 - Grand Crossfire** (all speakers)3 min.
 - Speaker 3 Final Focus.....2 min.
 - Speaker 4 Final Focus.....2 min.
- Each team may use up to two minutes of prep time.*

Lincoln Douglas Speech Times:

- Affirmative Constructive 6 minutes
 - Negative cross examination 3 minutes
 - Negative Constructive 7 minutes
 - Affirmative cross examination 3 minutes
 - Affirmative Rebuttal 4 minutes
 - Negative Rebuttal 6 minutes
 - Affirmative Rebuttal 3 minutes
- Each debater is allowed 4 minutes of preparation time, which they may use at their discretion.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT ARE SPEAKER POINTS?

Sometimes tournament rules will ask you not only to rank the students but also to assign speaker points. The ballots will indicate the maximum number and range of speaker points allowed. These points are used in breaking ties when necessary. You should award speaker points freely with the first ranked speaker getting as close to the maximum number allowed as possible. Each successively ranked speaker down the line would typically receive one or two points lower. As a rule of thumb, you should not award less than 80% of the maximum to any speaker.

Speaker points MUST be consistent with the rankings of the speakers. The 1st ranked speaker must receive the highest number of speaker points awarded and the lowest ranked speaker must receive the lowest number of speaker points awarded. While ties in rankings are not permitted, you are permitted to award the same number or speaker points to more than one speaker.

WHAT IS PROPER ATTIRE FOR THE SPEAKERS?

One of the prime requisites for competitors is proper attire. We tell our competitors that they should be dressed as if they are attorneys making a court appearance, in conservative business attire. For the girls we suggest a suit or dress, for the boys, trousers with a jacket and tie, or a suit. Blue jeans, casual sportswear, highly styled clothes, excessive make-up or distracting accessories are not acceptable. Competitors are not allowed to wear anything that might be considered to be a "costume."

SHOULD I SPEAK WITH COMPETITORS?

Although it is permissible to speak with the competitors, it is best to avoid conversations that will delay the competition. It is also important that you maintain an environment where all competitors are comfortable that you will be judging fairly and impartially. Unless Disclosure is permitted, please do not disclose your rankings.

CAN I SHOW EMOTION DURING THE ROUND?

Sure. If the speaker presents a humorous piece that makes you laugh don't hold back. If a dramatic piece touches you it is not unusual for a judge to tear up. The speaker is trying to get such a reaction and will appreciate the immediate response. Of course, you should try not to overdo it to the point where other competitors may feel uncomfortable. Remember, maintain your objectivity throughout the round.

CAN I INTERRUPT THE SPEAKER?

NO. Under no circumstances should a speaker be interrupted. It is unacceptable behavior for a judge to interject opinions or remarks during a presentation. If the speaker goes overtime you should take that into account on the ballot but do not say "stop" or "time."

WHAT IF SPEAKERS INTERRUPT THEMSELVES?

Occasionally, a nervous student will lose his or her place and may ask to start over. If this occurs, an appropriate response would be, "You may begin again if you wish; you still have (however many) minutes left of your time." Make sure you do not start the time over, as this would be unfair to the other competitors.

MAY I OBSERVE A ROUND WHEN I AM NOT JUDGING?

Sometimes you will have rounds when you are not assigned to judge and you may want to observe a round. If you wish to do so and it is not the Final Round, please check with the tab room. It would be inappropriate to observe a speaker you may be asked to judge in a later round.

MAY I DISCUSS THE ROUND WITH COMPETITORS OR OTHER JUDGES?

Please avoid discussing in specific terms rounds that you have judged. It is not acceptable behavior for a competitor to request information about the ballots from a judge. Do not allow speakers to observe the ballots as you are completing them.

You should avoid conversations with other judges that involve particular speakers. It is possible that judge may be assigned to a later round of the same speaker. It is not fair for reputation to precede the speaker, whether it is favorable or not. The other judge should not be influenced by your opinion of the speaker from a previous round. Also, DO NOT consult with another judge, competitor, or even host assistant to make your final decision.

ARE JUDGES ALLOWED TO LEAVE FOR LUNCH?

Tournaments are either "open" or "closed." A closed tournament does not allow speakers or judges to leave campus for lunch. Lunches are sold to speakers, judges and coaches. The proceeds from the lunches help to offset the cost of running the tournament.

IS SMOKING PERMITTED?

Smoking is not permitted in any school. Under no circumstances is smoking permitted during a round.

AREAS FOR COMMENTARY

The following areas are appropriate for judges to comment on. Please try to be specific and give examples of why you feel that an area was good or poor. These areas of commentary are not listed in any specific order of importance and the list is not intended to be exclusive of any other areas you feel were pertinent to the speakers ability to persuade, inform or entertain you.

- Enunciation and diction (slurred words, lost consonants, etc.)
- Poise
- Depth of analysis
- Pace (too fast, too slow)
- Eye contact
- Interesting, varied and credible sources
- Appropriate gestures and facial expressions
- Posture (rocking, swaying, hunched shoulders, etc.)
- Organization (easy or difficult to follow)
- Cited examples that really illustrate the topic
- Varied vocal quality (pitch and tone)
- Excellent (or poor) transitions
- Created a visual picture
- Appropriately set the mood
- Vocabulary, grammar and phrasing
- Introduction (creative or lacking creativity)
- Distracting or inappropriate body movements
- Lacked animation
- Lacked naturalness
- Too many, or too few, examples
- Use of humor (good or inappropriate)
- In Extemp, did not answer the question
- Clothing (appropriateness or distracting) Remember, it is speaking quality and content that counts, not appearance!
- Development of ideas
- In Interp, development and consistency of characters